

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Process to produce a composition containing 5'-ribonucleotides comprising:
 - a) subjecting a microorganism to autolysis under conditions at which a substantial part of the RNA remains in a form degradable into 5'-ribonucleotides and at which a substantial part of the RNA remains associated with the cell wall fraction;
 - b) subjecting the autolysate to solid/liquid separation and recovering the RNA-containing cell wall fraction;
 - c) converting the RNA in the recovered RNA-containing cell wall fraction into 5'-ribonucleotides.
2. (original) Process according to claim 1, comprising:
 - d) separating the fraction containing 5'-ribonucleotides from the cell wall fraction.
3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein autolysis in a) is initiated by damaging and/or partially disrupting the microbial cell walls.
4. (original) Process according to claim 3, wherein damaging and/or partially disrupting the microbial cell walls is performed enzymatically.
5. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 wherein in a) at least 50% of the RNA remains in a form degradable into 5'-ribonucleotides, ~~more preferably at least 60%, most preferably at least 70%.~~

6. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein in a) at least 20% of the RNA remains associated with the cell wall fraction, ~~preferably at least 30%, most preferably at least 40%.~~
7. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein in b) the RNA-containing cell wall fraction is recovered by centrifugation or filtration.
8. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein in b) the autolysate is subjected to ultrafiltration whereby a mixture of RNA-containing cell wall fraction and RNA derived from the microbial soluble fraction is recovered.
9. (original) Process according to claim 8, wherein in c) the RNA in the recovered mixture of RNA-containing cell wall fraction and recovered RNA derived from the microbial soluble fraction are converted into 5'-ribonucleotides.
10. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein in c) the RNA is enzymatically converted into 5'-ribonucleotides, ~~preferably by 5'-phosphodiesterase 5'-Fase or by 5'-phosphodiesterase 5'-Fase and~~ deaminase.
- 11.-18. (canceled)
19. (new) Process according to claim 5, wherein in a) at least 60% of the RNA remains in a form degradable into 5'-ribonucleotides.
20. (new) Process according to claim 5, wherein in a) at least 70% of the RNA remains in a form degradable into 5'-ribonucleotides.
21. (new) Process according to claim 6, wherein in a) at least 30% of the RNA remains associated with the cell wall fraction.

22. (new) Process according to claim 6, wherein in a) at least 40% of the RNA remains associated with the cell wall fraction.